UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
42nd meeting
held on
Wednesday, 29 November 1995
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/50/SR.42
28 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

95-82519 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 112: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued) (A/50/3, A/50/76, A/50/83, A/50/130, A/50/131, A/50/138-S/1995/299, A/50/139, A/50/169-S/1995/343, A/50/215-S/1995/475, A/50/254-S/1995/501, A/50/267, A/50/345, A/50/407, A/50/425-S/1995/787, A/50/437, A/50/475, A/50/483, A/50/523-S/1995/845, A/50/675-S/1995/884, A/50/689-S/1995/890 and A/50/707)

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(d) COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION (continued) (A/50/36)

(e) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (continued) (A/50/36 and A/50/743)

1. Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Kazakstan) said that the visits by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to more than 30 States throughout the world had served to broaden his cooperation with Governments in developing national human rights strategies. Her delegation believed that the High Commissioner would continue to play a decisive role in enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization's rights machinery, while striving to achieve a higher level of commitment to the protection of human rights at the national and international levels. The further strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights would enable it to carry out its mandate effectively. In the context of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, her delegation was confident that the Centre would, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other relevant United Nations institutions, continue to assist countries in developing their national programmes for education in the field of human rights.

2. The Vienna World Conference on Human Rights and the Fourth World Conference on Women had reaffirmed that the full and equal enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms was a priority area of United Nations activity. Implementing the recommendations of those Conferences would require coordinated action by the entire international community and improved cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

3. Kazakstan's human rights policy was based on the principles of the primacy of international human rights standards, the building of a civil society and a State based on the rule of law and State support for and the free development of social and institutional systems for the protection of human rights. In August 1995, her country had adopted a new Constitution which established the basic principles governing the existence of Kazakstan as an independent State. Those included harmony among the various national groups and political stability based on the equal rights of all citizens, the unity of its multinational people and the resolution of all State issues through peaceful, democratic means.

4. In early 1994, Kazakstan had established a human rights commission to advise on human rights issues and assist in the formulation of human rights policy. The commission monitored the human rights situation in the country and made proposals for bringing national legislation into line with the international human rights instruments to which Kazakstan was a party. The commission had sponsored the State human rights programme, which was based on the principles recognized by the international community and enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights. Her Government, which consistently pursued a policy based on the comprehensive implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all citizens, would continue to work for implementation of the decisions of the Vienna Conference.

5. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union and of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, said that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action had shaped a new vision of the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The implementation of human rights was a cornerstone of efforts to achieve stability, peace and development. The coordination and strengthening of human rights activities was the best way to ensure that the development and peace-building objectives of the international community were achieved.

6. In addressing preventive activities in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and similar cases, the European Union had advocated close inter-agency cooperation and the involvement of all relevant Secretariat departments in considering operational arrangements for human rights activities. It would continue to support human rights field operations. In most situations, the success of those efforts was contingent upon complementary efforts in related areas. Building mechanisms that were able to coordinate humanitarian, development and human rights activities could be an appropriate solution, as had been demonstrated in Cambodia and El Salvador. Country-specific planning and adequate funding of the different components of an integrated strategy were essential.

7. In the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), the High Commissioner for Human Rights had highlighted the objectives for system-wide action: assessment of the impact of agencies' policies and programmes on respect for human rights, and maintaining a permanent dialogue with the specialized agencies so as to promote human rights through systematic exchanges of information. Such an agenda was appropriate, since ACC had a role to play in the follow-up to all major international conferences in the economic and social field and since human rights had system-wide implications. Lastly, it was important to ensure that human rights activities received a sufficiently large share of regular budget resources to enable mandates to be implemented as intended.

8. Mr. SOTIROV (Bulgaria) said that all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms should be respected unconditionally throughout the world. Mere accession to international human rights instruments was not enough to ensure their observance. Flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms persisted, despite the growing number of States parties to the main human rights instruments. It therefore remained essential to monitor the implementation of those rights and freedoms.

9. As a neighbouring country of the former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria had firmly supported a peaceful, lasting solution to the conflict in that territory. It welcomed the recent signing of the Dayton peace agreement, which provided the first real opportunity for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. His delegation welcomed the suspension of Security Council sanctions and hoped that future developments would result in their being lifted completely and in an improvement in the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia.

10. At the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, his country had submitted a review of the situation of the Bulgarian minority in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/49/455). His Government attached particular importance to full implementation of the constitutionally recognized rights of the Bulgarian minority in that country, which were not as yet being fully respected, particularly with regard to the free expression of that minority's ethnic identity and national culture, education and the free exercise of religious rights in its mother tongue. In that connection, he noted with satisfaction the beginning of a bilateral dialogue and the expressed readiness of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to cooperate in a spirit of goodwill and take appropriate measures to guarantee the full implementation of all the rights of ethnic Bulgarians.

11. Those positive developments, however, had not substantially improved the human rights situation of the Bulgarian minority in Serbia. Information coming from the regions inhabited by ethnic Bulgarians there pointed to very few encouraging signs of change. Bulgarians in Serbia were still denied the right to express their ethnic identity through adequate education in their mother tongue and the preservation and development of their national traditions. The right to receive and impart information in Bulgarian continued to be limited. Bulgarians were still largely deprived of their right to profess religion in their own language and have priests of their ethnic origin. Contacts with Bulgaria, although guaranteed as a constitutional right, remained restricted and controlled. There were still hidden forms of pressure and assimilation, as well

as discrimination on ethnic grounds, especially in education and the civil service. His country's concern for the Bulgarian national minority in Serbia was motivated by the human rights situation there and should be viewed in the context of Bulgaria's determination to build stable and good-neighbourly relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

12. Mr. FARCAS (Romania) said that his country, which was a party to virtually all international human rights instruments, believed that the universal ratification and implementation of those instruments would enhance the effectiveness of the world-wide promotion and protection of human rights. Romania welcomed the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote universal accession, inter alia through the preparation of a major study on the extent of reservations and through appropriate action at the regional level. The specific commitments made by the Member States that had attended the World Conference on Human Rights must be in line with the general understanding of human rights stemming from recognition of the universality of international human rights law.

13. Among its measures to implement international human rights instruments, Romania had enshrined in its new Constitution the principle whereby those instruments took precedence over domestic norms in the human rights field. His Government believed that States should cooperate fully with the United Nations treaty-monitoring and human rights bodies and support the work of the Organization's human rights machinery. His delegation welcomed the ideas contained in the report of the sixth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies (A/50/505), particularly concerning cooperation by the specialized agencies with United Nations human rights structures, ways of enhancing observance of international human rights law and coordination of the entire United Nations human rights system in cases of massive violations. Romania commended the tremendous work done by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights over the past year and encouraged the High Commissioner to continue to discharge his mandate in the same successful manner. Lastly, his delegation stressed the need to support the High Commissioner's proposals concerning his office and the Centre for Human Rights.

14. Mr. KULLA (Albania) expressed the hope that the thorough and objective reporting and the recommendations of the various special rapporteurs on the situation of human rights in individual countries would contribute to the restoration of full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

15. There could be no internal stability in a country or region where there were continuing massive and gross violations of human rights such as those that had accompanied various armed conflicts during 1995. The civilian population was the most vulnerable in conflict situations, in that women and children were subjected to brutality and were under constant threat. Full respect for international humanitarian law was obligatory, and the violation of its norms during armed conflicts must be punished. Those responsible must be brought to justice in accordance with national legislation and international norms and impunity must be ended. The establishment of the International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda was a positive development and permanent international structures along those lines should be established without delay.

16. His Government strongly condemned the massive violations of human rights committed in recent years in the former Yugoslavia, particularly ethnic cleansing, mass killings, summary executions, the rape of women and the use of torture. It was concerned that the fate of 8,000 civilians who had fled Srebrenica had yet to be established. The recent peace agreement gave reason to hope that the Bosnian tragedy would soon end and that the Balkan crisis would be resolved. He noted with satisfaction that human rights questions constituted a substantial part of the agreement.

17. The situation of human rights in Kosovo continued to deteriorate. As had been mentioned in several reports of the Special Rapporteurs on the former Yugoslavia, police repression against ethnic Albanians had continued, with illegal and violent searches of homes throughout Kosovo, killings, illegal arrests, the use of torture, the expropriation of property, the prosecution of political and human rights activists and trumped-up political trials. Ethnic Albanians also suffered discrimination in education and health care and had been dismissed from their jobs and evicted from their homes. Tensions had been heightened by the deliberate settlement of Serb refugees in Kosovo, as part of the Serbian authorities' policy of altering the ethnic composition of Kosovo.

18. As was noted in the Special Rapporteur's latest report, the vast majority of Kosovo's population lived in constant fear. Such a situation was intolerable and could degenerate at any time, posing a serious threat to international peace and security. The authorities in Belgrade had ignored expressions of international concern and had refused to comply with General Assembly resolution 49/204. The international community should therefore keep the grave human rights situation in Kosovo under consideration. He hoped that the new Special Rapporteur would pay particular attention to that situation and that the possibility would be considered of establishing an international monitoring presence in Kosovo. His Government had called repeatedly for a dialogue between the authorities in Belgrade and the legitimate representatives of the Albanians of Kosovo, in the presence of a third party in order to reach a peaceful settlement. It hoped that an appropriate, durable solution would be found, based on the will of the population, thereby contributing to respect for human rights and lasting peace in the region.

19. Mr. WANG Xuexian (China) said that the end of the cold war should have created new opportunities for the promotion and protection of human rights. Instead, human rights questions were still being politicized, demonstrating that some countries remained in thrall to a cold war mentality. Those countries were putting political and economic pressure on other States, interfering in their internal affairs and seeking to impose their own system of values upon them, on the pretext of promoting human rights.

20. As the next chapter in United Nations history began, China wished to propose new guidelines for international cooperation on human rights. Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States was of paramount importance. While there was universal acceptance of many human rights, the different conditions obtaining in each country must be taken into account. The overwhelming majority of the world's population lived in developing countries and for them, while political and civil rights were important, economic, social and cultural rights, particularly the

right to subsistence and development, were paramount. United Nations human rights bodies must recognize that reality when defining their priorities. It was important to ensure that the promotion of human rights did not encroach upon the rule of law. Criminal offences must be recognized as such and punished according to the law. Lastly, reforms were needed to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations human rights mechanisms and overcome the problems of imprecise mandates and duplication of work. In particular, the membership of the Commission on Human Rights should be expanded to include more developing countries.

21. His Government was committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. As a developing country with a population of 1.2 billion, China was well aware of the importance of the rights to subsistence and development and the Government was striving to improve the economy and living standards. As a country with 56 ethnic groups, China also understood the importance of ethnic equality. While much remained to be done, the process of building a democratic society had begun.

22. Mr. MEKDAD (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action had stated that all human rights were universal, interdependent and interconnected and that the international community should deal with human rights in a comprehensive, equitable and even-handed manner, while taking regional and cultural specificities into consideration. His country attached great importance to safeguarding and protecting economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights. The Constitution guaranteed every citizen full enjoyment of all his rights and provided for the primacy of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. Syria had ratified numerous human rights instruments, including the International Covenants.

23. Syrian citizens exercised their democratic rights within a multi-party system, electing representatives to the People's Assembly and participating in non-governmental organizations and other democratic institutions which worked to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms and to achieve cultural, social and economic development for all. His country believed that there could be no national development without the full participation of women. Women's issues and their role in society were therefore considered especially important.

24. Human rights were indivisible. It was therefore strange that a State should speak of human rights when it had been occupying the territory of other States for nearly 30 years, depriving millions of people of their fundamental freedoms and violating their human rights. That State had used torture, murder, destruction of property and deportation to oppress the Arab citizens of the Golan and southern Lebanon, going so far as to accuse those resisting its occupation and striving to regain their basic right to freedom of being terrorists. The Israeli authorities had also violated the human rights of the Arabs living under Israeli occupation, including their rights to self-expression, freedom of movement and development.

25. The greatest threat to human rights at the international level was the use of human rights to pursue political ends which had nothing to do with legal or moral considerations. It should be axiomatic that principles took precedence over self-interest at all times. Accordingly, selective or double standards in

dealing with human rights violations should be avoided; racist laws and practices, particularly ethnic cleansing and mass deportation, should be resisted regardless of their perpetrators or causes; all fundamental freedoms should be considered equally important; arbitrary, undemocratic methods should not be used in international relations on the pretext of defending the rights of the individual, since the will of the international community represented the free will of every State; and priority should be given to particularly serious human rights violations.

26. His Government was ready to cooperate with United Nations human rights bodies in order to benefit from their experience, especially with regard to the training of personnel. Due importance should be attached to the resolution adopted by the latest Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-aligned Countries on the need to redress the unequal distribution of posts in the Centre for Human Rights through the recruitment of staff from developing countries.

27. His country was committed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and stood ready to work with the international community in bringing about a safer and a more stable, prosperous and peaceful world for all people everywhere.

28. Mr. DAHAB (Egypt) said that working to implement the principles of the Charter of the United Nations had been a cornerstone of Egypt's foreign policy ever since it had signed the Charter in 1945. Egypt was a party to various international human rights instruments and was working to bring its legislation into line with the letter and the spirit of those instruments. Its Constitution and legislation took Egypt's various commitments under those instruments into consideration, while respecting its own cultural characteristics, as recommended in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. Egypt was conscientiously fulfilling its reporting obligations under the various instruments.

29. Egypt was cooperating with the Centre for Human Rights and had benefited from its support in promoting human rights concepts. Over the past three years, the Centre had prepared studies and training courses for Egyptian diplomats, lawyers and policemen which had helped to establish a culture of human rights in Egypt. His country was also cooperating fully with special rapporteurs. In implementing its obligations and handling human rights issues generally, Egypt was careful to ensure that human rights were dealt with impartially and apolitically.

30. Mr. SOAL (South Africa) said that respect for the human rights of all individuals was one of the most important principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In South Africa, the recent establishment of a Human Rights Commission and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission would have far-reaching consequences for human rights. Another important development had been the landmark ruling by the Constitutional Court declaring the death penalty to be illegal. South Africa had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the occasion of its own National Day of the Child. Parliament had approved the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and, in 1996, would consider the ratification of the remaining international human rights instruments.

31. An important development in the international arena had been the decision taken by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session to delete from its agenda all items dealing with apartheid and South Africa and to terminate the mandates of the two investigatory mechanisms created to monitor the human rights situation in that country. His Government had formally invited the Centre for Human Rights to send a needs assessment mission to South Africa with a view to establishing a programme of technical assistance and advisory services.

32. The right to development was a fundamental human right. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action had demonstrated the need to strike a balance between civil and political rights, on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights, on the other. South Africa hoped that the affirmation of the importance of the right to development by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in his statement to the Third Committee would serve as a reminder of the need to continue support for the Working Group on the Right to Development.

33. South Africa had noted with concern the report of the Committee against Torture. The drafting of an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture would be an important step towards the elimination of torture throughout the world, and South Africa urged the international community to support the discussions currently taking place on that issue.

34. While significant progress had been made towards peace, democratization and respect for human rights in some countries, particularly in southern Africa, grave violations of human rights were continuing in many parts of the world. South Africa's own experience had demonstrated the effectiveness of the special rapporteurs and investigatory bodies appointed by the United Nations to combat such violations. He urged the international community to continue its support for those mechanisms.

35. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) said that the question of the strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights was of particular interest to his delegation. He drew the Committee's attention to section 21, on human rights, of the first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/50/7) and to the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/49/892), in particular the section dealing with the programmes and administrative practices of the Centre for Human Rights. He suggested that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services should be invited to introduce those reports to the Committee. A draft resolution on that important question would be circulated shortly. In his view, the Committee would be better able to arrive at a consensus text after it had considered those documents.

36. Mr. WANG Xuexian (China) supported the proposal by the representative of Cuba. The importance of strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights had been highlighted in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. He hoped that the working group of the Third Committee entrusted with considering that issue would be able to arrive at a consensus. The financial implications of any reform of United Nations action in the human rights field must, however, be dealt with by the Fifth Committee.

37. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Spain) said that the matters raised by the representative of Cuba came entirely within the purview of the Fifth Committee and that little purpose would be served by circulating the documents to which he had referred.

38. Ms. TAMLYN (United States of America) endorsed the statement by the representative of Spain. Given the division of labour between the Main Committees, it would not be appropriate for the Third Committee to consider the issues in question.

39. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the two documents should be made available as background documents.

40. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 107: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.25

41. Mrs. HORIUCHI (Japan), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.25, entitled "Strengthening the role of the United Nations Development Fund for women in eliminating violence against women" said that the Bahamas, Benin, Ethiopia, Poland, Singapore and Thailand had become sponsors. The eradication of violence against women had in recent years been recognized as an issue of the greatest urgency and one that must be addressed at all levels of society. The draft resolution was aimed at strengthening the role of UNIFEM in eliminating violence against women, as a priority of the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action. It requested that consideration be given to the possibility of establishing a trust fund, within the existing mandate, structure and management of UNIFEM, in support of national, regional and international actions, while recognizing the importance of coordination and cooperation among United Nations activities in that area. In that connection, she referred to General Assembly resolution 48/107, which had welcomed the advocacy initiatives of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in particular with respect to efforts to combat violence against women, and had commended the Fund for its support of catalytic and innovative projects that strengthened national capacity to improve the situation of women. In the area of violence against women, the Fund was playing a catalytic role by supporting outreach, training and networking activities among relevant groups and by providing support for efforts to protect battered women refugees and to extend counselling, empowerment and education services to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

42. The draft resolution offered a means of providing the resources needed to tackle a serious global problem and encouraged the world community to participate more effectively in international efforts to eradicate violence against women. The sponsors believed that it would contribute to the further advancement of women and hoped that many countries would support its objectives. Consultations were still under way on the draft resolution and a revised version would be circulated shortly.

AGENDA ITEM 106: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.16

43. The CHAIRMAN announced that draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.16, entitled "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders", had no programme budget implications.

44. Mr. SOAL (South Africa), introducing the draft resolution, said that in the last line of paragraph 4, the words "resolution 49/156 and" should be inserted between the words "Assembly" and "decision". Paragraph 5 should be deleted and the remaining paragraphs renumbered accordingly. In original paragraph 6, the phrases "to resume its assistance programme" and "which was ended in October 1994" should be deleted and, after the word "Programme" in the second line, the phrase "to reconsider its decision with regard to its financial support" should be added. The first part of that paragraph should thus read: "Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to reconsider its decision with regard to its financial support to the Institute, and to ...".

45. A recorded vote was taken on paragraph 4, as orally revised.

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of

Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

46. Paragraph 4, as orally revised, was adopted by 76 votes to 1, with 47 abstentions.*

47. Ms. TAMLYN (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that while her Government regretted that the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had been unable to establish a sound financial basis for its activities, it did not support regular budget funding for regional United Nations institutes. Her delegation also noted that General Assembly decision 49/480 called on the Secretary-General to establish criteria for the future funding of regional institutes and for the General Assembly to approve such criteria before approving any future requests for regular budget funding for regional institutes. To date, such criteria had not been established.

48. Mrs. HORIUCHI (Japan) said that her Government considered the African Institute's crime prevention activities to be vital and necessary and supported such initiatives. However, her delegation had abstained in the voting because it believed that the operating expenses of regional bodies should be funded by voluntary contributions from their members rather than by appropriations from the United Nations programme budget.

49. Mr. TARASSENKO (Russian Federation) said that his delegation also supported the activities of the African Institute. Given the financial difficulties of the United Nations, however, his delegation had abstained in the vote on paragraph 4. Extra resources for the Institute could be obtained either by redistributing existing resources or through the priority programme system.

50. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.16 as a whole was adopted without a vote.

51. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda), explaining his delegation's position, thanked the delegation of South Africa for its efforts to arrive at a consensus on the draft resolution as orally revised, as well as the delegations that had supported the resolution. While his delegation appreciated the continuing and increasing support of some delegations for the African Institute, it was disappointed that there were still those that questioned the role and usefulness of the Institute. At a time when crime prevention activities were being given priority by the Organization, such activities should be seen in the context not only of the crime prevention programme but also of regional crime prevention efforts. The Group of African States attached great importance to the role and functions of the Institute, and hoped that, in future, other delegations, particularly the one that continued to oppose it, would reconsider their decision.

52. His delegation's understanding of paragraph 4 was that the Secretary-General would continue to make proposals for supporting the Institute's

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* The delegation of Rwanda subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of paragraph 4, as orally revised.

administrative functioning from the regular budget; it also hoped that the Secretary-General would continue to use his position as Chairman of ACC to mobilize extrabudgetary resources from the United Nations system as a whole to support the Institute's activities. It was in that context that his delegation would be looking at the various budgetary proposals being considered by the Fifth Committee for the financing of United Nations activities for the biennium 1996-1997. He hoped that all delegations would facilitate consensus adoption of the budget as a whole by supporting the Secretary-General's proposals with regard to the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

53. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/50/373).

54. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.